

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9394

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to reauthorize and update the Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 1, 2022

Mr. OWENS (for himself and Mrs. HINSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to reauthorize and update the Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Child Care and Develop-
5 ment Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 (a) REDESIGNATION.—Section 658A of the Child
8 Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42
9 U.S.C. 9857) is redesignated as section 658 of such Act.

1 (b) AMENDMENT.—Subsection (b) of that section 658
2 is amended to read as follows:

3 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this subchapter
4 are—

5 “(1) to allow each State maximum flexibility in
6 developing a mixed delivery system to provide child
7 care that best suits the needs of children and work-
8 ing parents within that State;

9 “(2) to promote parental choice to empower
10 working parents to make their own decisions regard-
11 ing the child care services that best suit their fam-
12 ily’s needs;

13 “(3) to encourage States to provide consumer
14 education information to help parents make in-
15 formed choices about child care services and to pro-
16 mote involvement by parents and family members in
17 the development of their children in child care set-
18 tings;

19 “(4) to assist States in delivering high-quality,
20 coordinated child care services to maximize parents’
21 options to cover the full workday and full work year,
22 to support continuity of care for children, and to
23 support parents trying to achieve independence from
24 public assistance;

1 “(5) to assist States in improving the overall
2 quality of child care by implementing the health,
3 safety, licensing, early learning and development,
4 professional, and oversight standards established in
5 this subchapter and in State law (including State
6 regulations);

7 “(6) to assist States—

8 “(A) in helping parents access high-quality
9 child care; and

10 “(B) in supporting child care providers in
11 the recruitment of, professional development
12 for, and retention of a qualified child care work-
13 force; and

14 “(7) to increase the number and percentage of
15 low-income children in high-quality child care set-
16 tings.”.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 658P of the Child Care
19 and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
20 9858n) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3),
22 (4) through (7), (8) and (9), and (10) through (15),
23 as paragraphs (3) and (4), (6) through (9), (11) and
24 (12), and (14) through (19), respectively;

1 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(2) CHILD CARE.—The term ‘child care’ in-
4 cludes preschool, prekindergarten, and early child-
5 hood education for children from birth through age
6 5, and before school, after school, and summer care
7 for school-age children.”;

8 (3) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

9 (A) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
10 “and” at the end;

11 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “;
12 and” at the end and inserting a period; and

13 (C) by striking subparagraph (D);

14 (4) by striking paragraph (6), as so redesi-
15 gnated, and inserting the following:

16 “(5) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY.—The term ‘eligible
17 activity’, means an activity consisting of—

18 “(A) full-time or part-time employment;

19 “(B) self-employment;

20 “(C) job search activities;

21 “(D) job training;

22 “(E) secondary, postsecondary, or adult
23 education, including education through a pro-
24 gram of high school classes, a course of study
25 at an institution of higher education, classes to-

wards an equivalent of a high school diploma
recognized by State law, or English as a second
language classes;

4 “(F) health treatment (including mental
5 health and substance use treatment) for a con-
6 dition that prevents the parent involved from
7 participating in other eligible activities;

8 “(G) activities to prevent child abuse or
9 neglect, or family violence prevention or inter-
10 vention activities;

11 “(H) employment and training activities
12 under the supplemental nutrition assistance
13 program established under section 6(d)(4) of
14 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
15 2015(d)(4));

19 “(J) a work activity described in sub-
20 section (d) of section 407 of the Social Security
21 Act (42 U.S.C. 607) for which, consistent with
22 clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 402(a)(1)(A) of
23 such Act (42 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(A)), a parent is
24 treated as being engaged in work for a month
25 in a fiscal year for purposes of the program of

1 block grants to States for temporary assistance
2 for needy families established under part A of
3 title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
4 601 et seq.); or

5 “(K) taking leave under the Family and
6 Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et
7 seq.) (or equivalent provisions for Federal em-
8 ployees), a State or local paid or unpaid leave
9 law, or a program of employer-provided leave.

10 “(6) ELIGIBLE CHILD.—The term ‘eligible
11 child’ means an individual—

12 “(A) who is less than 13 years of age;

13 “(B)(i)(I) whose family income does not
14 exceed 85 percent of the State median income
15 for a family of the same size; or

16 “(II) in the case of a State that has deter-
17 mined it is necessary to serve additional chil-
18 dren, after ensuring that all eligible children de-
19 scribed in subclause (I) have had an appro-
20 priate opportunity to receive services under this
21 subchapter, whose family income does not ex-
22 ceed a State limit that is not more than 150
23 percent of the State median income for a family
24 of the same size; and

1 “(ii) whose family assets do not exceed
2 \$1,000,000, excluding any asset used for the
3 family’s farm for such family; and

4 “(C) who—

5 “(i) resides with a parent or parents
6 who are participating in an eligible activ-
7 ity;

8 “(ii) is a child experiencing homeless-
9 ness, a child in kinship care, or a child who
10 is receiving, or needs to receive, child pro-
11 tective services; or

12 “(iii) resides with a parent who is
13 more than 65 years of age.”;

14 (5) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated—

15 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”
16 at the end;

17 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

18 (i) by inserting “the child (if the
19 spouse of such provider is engaged in an
20 eligible activity),” after “decree,”; and

21 (ii) by striking the period at the end
22 and inserting “; or”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(C) notwithstanding section 645(a)(1)(B)
2 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
3 9840(a)(1)(B)), a Head Start agency.”;

4 (6) by striking paragraph (9), as so redesignated,
5 and inserting the following:

6 “(9) FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER.—The
7 term ‘family child care provider’ means an individual
8 who provides child care services in a private resi-
9 dence—

10 “(A) for fewer than 24 hours per day per
11 child; or

12 “(B) for 24 hours per day per child due to
13 the nature of the work of the parent involved.

14 “(10) HOMELESS CHILD.—The term ‘homeless
15 child’ means an individual described in section
16 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
17 Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)).”;

18 (7) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated, by
19 striking “(11)” and all that follows through “mean-
20 ing” and inserting the following:

21 “(11) INDIAN TRIBE; INDIAN TRIBE.—The term
22 ‘Indian Tribe’ or ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning”;

23 (8) by inserting after paragraph (12), as so re-
24 designated, the following:

1 “(13) MIXED DELIVERY SYSTEM.—The term
2 ‘mixed delivery system’ means a system of child care
3 services that—

4 “(A) promotes parental choice to empower
5 working parents to make their own decisions re-
6 garding the child care services that best suit
7 their family’s needs; and

8 “(B) delivers services through a combina-
9 tion of programs offered by eligible child care
10 providers (including faith-based and commu-
11 nity-based child care providers) in a variety of
12 settings (including family child care homes,
13 child care centers, Head Start centers, and pub-
14 lic and private schools).”; and

15 (9) in paragraph (19), as so redesignated, by
16 striking “(19)” and all that follows through “has the
17 meaning” and inserting the following:

18 “(19) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION; TRIBAL ORGANI-
19 ZATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Tribal or-
21 ganization’ or ‘tribal organization’ has the
22 meaning”.

23 (b) REDESIGNATION.—The Child Care and Develop-
24 ment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9857 et seq.)
25 is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating section 658P as section
2 658A; and
3 (2) by moving section 658A, as so redesignated,
4 to follow section 658, as redesignated by section 2.

5 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 Section 658B of the Child Care and Development
7 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858) is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 658B. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 “There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
11 this subchapter (other than section 658T) \$6,165,330,000
12 for each of the fiscal years 2023 through 2027.”.

13 **SEC. 5. LEAD AGENCY.**

14 Section 658D(b) of the Child Care and Development
15 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858b(b)) is amend-
16 ed by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

17 “(2) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—The lead agen-
18 cy shall develop the State plan described in para-
19 graph (1)(B) in meaningful consultation with—

20 “(A) parents of children eligible for serv-
21 ices under this subchapter, which shall include
22 parents of children in a priority population de-
23 scribed in section 658E(c)(2)(M);

1 “(B) eligible child care providers that rep-
2 resent the various geographic areas and types
3 of providers in the State;

4 “(C) employers of various sizes and with
5 various hours and days of operations whose em-
6 ployees rely on reliable and accessible child care
7 to work; and

8 “(D) appropriate representatives of units
9 of general purpose local government and, as ap-
10 propriate, of Indian Tribes and Tribal organiza-
11 tions, except that States that have 5 or more
12 federally recognized Tribes shall consult with
13 Tribal leadership on how to best serve Native
14 American and Alaska Native children and fami-
15 lies residing on lands outside the tribal service
16 areas.”.

17 **SEC. 6. APPLICATION AND PLAN.**

18 Section 658E of the Child Care and Development

19 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “3-year” and
21 inserting “5-year”; and

22 (2) in subsection (c)—

23 (A) in paragraph (2)—

24 (i) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking

“a child” and inserting “an eligible child”; and

(II) in subclause (II), by striking

“section 658P(2)” and inserting “section 658A(3);

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
“not later” and all that follows through
subparagraph (K)(i);

(iii) in subparagraph (E)(i)—

(I) in the matter preceding sub-clause (I) by striking "information" and all that follows through "concerning—" and inserting "information about the availability of child care services as offered through a mixed delivery system that will promote informed child care choices and that concerns—";

(II) in subclause (I), by inserting
“(including information on the hours
and days of operation and ages
served)” after “of child care services”:

(III) in subclause (II), by inserting before the semicolon the following:

1 “or a national accrediting body with
2 demonstrated, valid, and reliable pro-
3 gram standards for high quality”; and
4 (IV) in subclause (IV)—
5 (aa) by striking “and” be-
6 fore “the Medicaid”; and
7 (bb) by inserting before the
8 semicolon the following: “, and
9 the Maternal, Infant, and Early
10 Childhood Home Visiting Pro-
11 grams under section 511 of the
12 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
13 711)”;
14 (iv) in subparagraph (G)—
15 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
16 by striking “TRAINING AND PROFES-
17 SIONAL” and inserting “PROFES-
18 SIONAL”;
19 (II) in clause (i) and clause (ii)
20 (in the matter preceding subclause
21 (I)), by striking “training and” before
22 “professional development”;
23 (III) in clause (ii)(II), by striking
24 “, and may engage” and all that fol-

1 lows through “training framework”;
2 and

3 (IV) in clause (iii), by striking
4 “training” and inserting “professional
5 development”;

6 (v) in subparagraph (I)(i)—

7 (I) in subclause (VII)—

8 (aa) by striking “for emer-
9 gencies” and inserting the fol-
10 lowing: “for—

11 “(aa) emergencies” ;

12 (bb) by striking the semi-
13 colon at the end and inserting “;
14 and”; and

15 (cc) by adding at the end
16 the following:

17 “(bb) a public health emer-
18 gency pursuant to section 319 of
19 the Public Health Service Act
20 (42 U.S.C. 247d);”; and

21 (II) in subclause (IX), by strik-
22 ing “if applicable,”;

23 (vi) in subparagraph (J)—

24 (I) by striking “that procedures”
25 and inserting the following: “that—

- 1 “(i) procedures”;
- 2 (II) by striking the period at the
- 3 end and inserting “; and”; and
- 4 (III) by adding at the end the
- 5 following:
- 6 “(ii) the State will undertake a review
- 7 of State and local health and safety re-
- 8 quirements (including requirements for in-
- 9 spections under this subchapter and the
- 10 child and adult care food program estab-
- 11 lished under section 17 of the Richard B.
- 12 Russell National School Lunch Act (42
- 13 U.S.C. 1766)) to determine redundancies
- 14 that may be eliminated and oversights be
- 15 addressed, to ensure—
- 16 “(I) children receive child care
- 17 services in healthy and safe environ-
- 18 ments; and
- 19 “(II) child care providers can
- 20 easily identify, understand, and com-
- 21 ply with applicable health and safety
- 22 requirements without redundant com-
- 23 pliance visits or other unnecessary
- 24 burden.”;
- 25 (vii) in subparagraph (K)(i)—

SECTION 650A(5)(B) ,

(I) by redesignating clauses (ii) through (iv) as clauses (iii) through (v), respectively; and

12 (II) by striking clause (i) and in-
13 serting the following:

20 (ix) in subparagraph (N)—

(I) in clauses (i)(I) and (iv), by striking “85 percent” and inserting “150 percent”; and

(II) in clause (iii), by striking

“At the option of the State, the” and inserting “The”;

(x) in subparagraph (O)(i), by striking “full-day services” and inserting “full day and full work year services”;

(xi) in subparagraph (S)(ii), by striking “, to the extent” and all that follows through “fixed costs” and inserting “implement enrollment and eligibility policies that support the fixed and operational costs”;

(xii) in subparagraph (U)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking "Governor

or” and inserting “Governor,”;
and

(bb) by inserting before the word the following: “, or a public health emergency pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d)”;

(II) in clause (ii), by inserting

“State and local health agencies,”

1 after “licensing of child care pro-
2 viders,”; and

3 (III) in clause (iii)(II), by strik-
4 ing “following the emergency or dis-
5 aster, which may include” and insert-
6 ing “during and following the emer-
7 gency or disaster, which shall include
8 guidelines for the”; and

9 (xiii) in subparagraph (V), by striking
10 “develop” and all that follows through
11 “services.” and inserting “support child
12 care business technical assistance including
13 supporting—

14 “(I) provision of strategies to
15 support management coaching and
16 the use of core best business prac-
17 tices;

18 “(II) development and use of
19 shared services initiatives including
20 initiatives involving provider networks
21 such as child care center alliances and
22 family child care provider networks;
23 and

24 “(III) development and use of
25 shared services to support staff

1 retainment and professional develop-
2 ment.”.”;

3 (B) in paragraph (3)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by strik-
5 ing “Not later” and all that follows
6 through “shall prepare” and inserting
7 “Not later than September 30 of each fis-
8 cal year, the Secretary shall prepare”; and

9 (ii) in subparagraph (D)—

10 (I) by striking “with respect to”
11 and all that follows through “2020”
12 and inserting “with respect to each
13 fiscal year”); and

14 (II) by striking “described in
15 clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of” and in-
16 serting “in priority populations de-
17 scribed in”;

18 (C) in paragraph (4)—

19 (i) by striking subparagraphs (A) and
20 (B) and inserting the following:

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The State plan shall
22 certify, in not less than 5 years, that payment
23 rates, for the provision of child care services for
24 which assistance is provided in accordance with
25 this subchapter, are sufficient to meet the cost

1 of providing the child care services, including
2 the fixed and operational costs of providing the
3 child care services, and are set and paid in ac-
4 cordance with a cost estimation model described
5 in subparagraph (B).

6 “(B) COST ESTIMATION MODEL.—The
7 State plan shall—

8 “(i) demonstrate that the State, after
9 consulting with eligible child care pro-
10 viders, the State Advisory Council on Early
11 Childhood Education and Care designated
12 or established in section 642B(b)(1)(A)(i)
13 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
14 9837b(b)(1)(A)(i)), local child care pro-
15 gram administrators, local child care re-
16 source and referral agencies, and other ap-
17 propriate entities, has developed and uses
18 a statistically valid and reliable cost esti-
19 mation model for the payment rates for
20 providers of child care services in the
21 State, that—

22 “(I) reflects the costs of service
23 delivery, including fixed costs, oper-
24 ating expenses, and staff salaries and

1 benefits necessary to recruit, educate,
2 and retain qualified staff;

3 “(II) reflects variations in the
4 costs of service delivery by submarket,
5 type of provider, and children served,
6 including by—

7 “(aa) geographic area (such
8 as location in an urban or rural
9 area);

10 “(bb) ages of children;

11 “(cc) whether the children
12 have particular needs (such as
13 needs of children with disabilities
14 and children served by child pro-
15 tective services);

16 “(dd) whether the providers
17 provide services during weekend
18 and other nontraditional hours;
19 and

20 “(ee) quality of child care
21 provider as determined by the
22 State; and

23 “(III) is reviewed once every two
24 years and adjusted accordingly to—

1 “(aa) ensure payment rates
2 remain sufficient to meet the re-
3 quirements of this subchapter;
4 and
5 “(bb) provide a cost of living
6 increase to maintain the level of
7 services; and
8 “(ii) describe how the State will pro-
9 vide for timely payments, set in accordance
10 with the model described in clause (i), for
11 child care services provided under this sub-
12 chapter.”;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (C)—
14 (I) by striking clause (ii); and
15 (II) by striking “(C)” and all
16 that follows through “Nothing” and
17 inserting the following:
18 “(C) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing”; and
19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:
21 “(D) NO FEDERAL CONTROL.—The Sec-
22 retary may offer guidance to States on cost es-
23 timation models described in subparagraph (B),
24 but shall not require a State to adopt a par-

1 ticular cost estimation model or element of a
2 particular cost estimation model.”; and

3 (D) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting
4 the following:

5 “(5) COPAYMENT.—The State plan shall pro-
6 vide that the State will establish and periodically re-
7 vise by rule a sliding fee scale to determine a full co-
8 payment for a family receiving assistance under this
9 subchapter (or, for a family receiving part-time care,
10 a reduced copayment that is the proportionate
11 amount of the full copayment) and that is not a bar-
12 rier to families from accessing child care services
13 under this subchapter.”.

14 **SEC. 7. ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CHILD
15 CARE.**

16 Section 658G of the Child Care and Development
17 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858e) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

19 (A) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
20 serting the following:

21 “(A) to carry out the activities described in
22 paragraph (1), not less than 9 percent of the
23 funds described in paragraph (1) for each fiscal
24 year; and”; and

25 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (ii) by striking “and subsection
6 (b)(4)”;

7 (2) in subsection (b)—

12 (B) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and
13 inserting the following:

14 “(1) Supporting the education and professional
15 development of child care staff and supporting child
16 care providers in the recruitment of, professional de-
17 velopment for, and retention of a qualified child care
18 workforce, through activities selected by the State
19 such as—

“(A) the development and expansion of initiatives to assist child care staff in the attainment of postsecondary credentials;

23 “(B) the provision of financial assistance
24 (including through bonuses, retention grants,
25 and wage supplements)—

1 “(i) for child care staff to pursue a
2 postsecondary credential; and
3 “(ii) for child care providers to re-
4 cruit, provide professional development for,
5 and retain child care staff who have at-
6 tained such credentials; and
7 “(C) the support for earn and learn pro-
8 grams that equip participants with specialized
9 knowledge, skills, and competencies required to
10 work in child care;”;
11 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
12 paragraph (2);
13 (D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—
14 (i) by striking subparagraph (A) and
15 inserting the following:
16 “(A) support and assess the quality of
17 child care providers in the State, which may in-
18 clude supporting child care providers in the vol-
19 untary pursuit of accreditation by a national
20 accrediting body with demonstrated, valid, and
21 reliable program standards of high quality;”;
22 and
23 (ii) by striking subparagraph (C) and
24 inserting the following:

1 “(C) be designed to improve the quality of
2 all providers in the mixed delivery system, in-
3 cluding providers offering services for different
4 age groups of children and providers offering
5 services in nontraditional hours of operation;”;

6 (E) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so
7 redesignated, the following:

8 “(3) Supporting a statewide system of child
9 care resource and referral services to help parents
10 make informed choices about child care services
11 through transparent and easy-to-understand con-
12 sumer information about high-quality care and edu-
13 cation.”;

14 (F) by striking paragraphs (4) through
15 (6);

16 (G) by redesignating paragraph (7) as
17 paragraph (4);

18 (H) by striking paragraphs (8) and (9);
19 and

20 (I) by redesignating paragraph (10) as
21 paragraph (5); and

22 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “Beginning
23 with fiscal year 2016, at” and inserting “At”.

1 **SEC. 8. REPORTS AND AUDITS.**

2 Section 685K(a)(2) of the Child Care and Develop-
3 ment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858i(a)(2))
4 is amended—

5 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

6 (A) by striking “Not later than” and all
7 that follows through “a State” and inserting “A
8 State”; and

9 (B) by inserting “annually” before “pre-
10 pare”;

11 (2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “section
12 658P(6)” and inserting “section 658A(8)”; and

13 (3) in subparagraph (F), by striking “section
14 658P(6)(B)” and inserting “section 658A(8)(B)”.

15 **SEC. 9. REPORTS, HOTLINE, AND WEBSITE.**

16 Section 658L of the Child Care and Development
17 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858j) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “Not later”
19 and all that follows through “the Secretary shall”
20 and inserting “The Secretary shall biennially”; and

21 (2) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting “,
22 or a national accrediting body with demonstrated,
23 valid, and reliable program standards for high qual-
24 ity,” after “System”.

1 **SEC. 10. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

2 Section 658O(a) of the Child Care and Development
3 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m(a)) is amend-
4 ed—

5 (1) in paragraphs (1), (3), and (4) by striking
6 “this subchapter” and inserting “section 658B”;
7 and

8 (2) in paragraph (5) by striking “this sub-
9 chapter” the first place it appears and inserting
10 “section 658B”.

○